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# Economic and Social Council

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**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

## Letter dated 26 April 2000 from the Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights established, in its resolution 1994/9 and 1994/10: (a) an open-ended inter-sessional working group on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for their prevention and eradication and (b) an open-ended inter-sessional working group on a draft optional protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts. The two working groups finalized their work six years later, in January and February 2000.

The achievement of the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child are high on the agenda of child rights issues for many Governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The optional protocols have now emerged as the result of hard and constructive work by all participants, in a spirit of compromise. The texts of the two draft optional protocols were adopted by consensus by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2000/59 of 26 April 2000. The text of the resolution as well as of the two optional protocols will be attached in an addendum to the present letter.

The Commission on Human Rights recommends the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child contained in the annexes to the resolution for early adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. It is furthermore recommended that, after adoption by the General Assembly, the two optional protocols be opened for early signature and ratification or accession, namely:

(a) At the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to be held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2000, and thereafter;

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(b) At United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", to be held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000;

(c) At the Millennium Summit of the Millennium Assembly, to be held in New York from 5 to 8 September 2000.

Resolution 2000/59 includes proposed texts of the draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

I have taken special satisfaction in participating in the elaboration of resolution 2000/59 and its adoption by the Commission on Human Rights and would like to contribute to the adoption and ratification of or accession to the two optional protocols by Member States as soon as possible. Based upon the strong support of the Commission on Human Rights, I would like to suggest that action on the draft resolution by the Economic and Social Council be scheduled at an early date, preferably on the agenda for the meeting of the Council on 3 and 4 May 2000. Early adoption by the General Assembly would allow preparations for an opening for signature and ratification or accession as proposed above.

(*Signed*) Shambhu Ram **Simkhada**
Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the
Commission on Human Rights